

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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Notes from Jim Johnson

On Friday, April 6, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dedicated the Maass-White Library at its Institute for Water Resources (IWR) at Ft. Belvoir, VA to two giants in water resources – Gilbert White and Arthur Maass.


Gilbert White and Arthur Maass have influenced the way in which we view water resources for over half a century, and have profoundly affected our national water policies. Every Corps of Engineer employee would gain value from greater exposure to their writings. Certainly, we would benefit from a better understanding of the importance of sound, comprehensive and holistic formulation and evaluation of our water resources projects.

During the past year, the Corps of Engineers has been vilified by some of its critics who charge that the agency's processes and procedures are biased toward civil works project construction. In fact, an objective review will indicate that our procedures are sound – our planning guidance reflects the principles championed through the years by Gilbert White and Arthur Maass. And our processes also are sound – only about 16% of the studies we initiate result in project construction.

But can we do better? Yes.

We have an opportunity to address water resources problems with solutions that effectively balance economic development and environmental needs. In fact, proper multiple objective planning that incorporates our primary missions of flood protection, navigation and ecosystem restoration should assure balanced solutions.

During the coming months, you will hear more about the importance of achieving environmentally sustainable civil works projects – not only in planning but in project design, construction, operations and maintenance. As we dedicate our library at IWR to Gilbert White and Arthur Maass, let us also understand the importance of their message, and of achieving the sound stewardship of our water resources.

And on a final note, congratulations to Steve Cobb as the new Chief of Planning and Programs Management in the Mississippi Valley Division in Vicksburg and to Dennis Wagner, the new Chief of Planning and Policy in our Northwestern Division in Portland. 

Senior Planning Vacancies

We have created this special section in *Planning Ahead* to highlight vacancy announcements for senior planning positions, especially planning chief positions. We encourage all divisions and districts to place senior planner position announcements in *Planning Ahead* to give them greater visibility. Also you can find most vacancy announcements at <http://cpol.army.mil/va/scripts/public.html>

Seattle District

Seattle District is recruiting for a District Native American Coordinator who works with Division, HQUSACE, and other Districts and Division on Native American issues concerning policy, consultation, and protocol. Maintains expertise in Federal and state policies, regulations, treaties and laws regarding Native American (NA) tribes and is the District expert regarding the history, government processes and treaties of the respective Native American tribes. Establishes and maintains close working relationships with various Districts' Native American Coordinators and other Federal agencies in the development and implementation of the Native American Coordination Program. Conducts and facilitates regular meetings as the District representative with tribal chairmen, tribal councils, staff and members, as necessary, to discuss issues and programs. Provides information to the general public as necessary regarding Corps of Engineers and District Native American policies and program and represents the District Engineer at public and tribal meetings to maintain an effective liaison. Serves as Cultural Resource Program Technical Advisor to the District Commander. Fosters mutually beneficial relations with the Tribes by identifying, evaluating, and assuring that the District is proactively responding to Traditional and Cultural Tribal concerns. Prepares or directs preparation of pertinent correspondence, reports, Corps of Engineers policies, and drafts of proposed legislation as required to develop and implement policies related to Native Americans. Develops program related guidance and training needs and initiates, organizes and

facilitates training modules and workshops to enable key staff and field managers to better understand Native American issues and policy. Performs other duties as assigned. For additional information please contact Mark Ziminske, Chief Environmental Resources Section at 206-764-3620.

Sacramento District

The plan formulation branches in Sacramento District's Planning Division are looking for both experienced and beginning planners for a large Civil Works water resources development program in California and parts of eight other western states. We have vacancies at all levels from GS-5 through GS-12 for interdisciplinary planners from the following titles/series: Social Science Study Manager, GS-0101-XX; Biological Sciences Study Manager, GS-0401-XX; Landscape Architect, GS-0807-XX; Civil Engineer, GS-0810-XX; and Physical Sciences Study Manager, GS-1301-XX. Our extensive program allows qualified people to become leaders in the Corps planning community and explore new and innovative methods of implementing the Regional Business Plan in doing business.

The four planning branches, Sacramento Basin, San Joaquin Basin, American River/Great Basin, and Regional Planning Branches, provide planning services, coordination, and expertise on a regional basis. Each branch oversees a full range of study types and complexities. Currently, we are involved in innovative means of solving flooding problems and developing a strong environmental restoration program.

For an extensive look into the history of SPK, sections of A History of the Sacramento District are now online. Additional information on the District can be found at our Website at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/>. Sacramento is the capital of the state of California, which is the seventh largest economic entity in the world. Sacramento has a mild Mediterranean climate. Combined with local and nearby educational facilities and numerous recreational opportunities on Sacramento's nearby rivers and surrounding parks, Sacramento is a desirable place to live. A 10.7 per cent cost-of-living allowance makes this northern California region an affordable place in which to buy a home and raise a family. For more information on Sacramento and California, contact the following: <http://www.gocalif.ca.gov/> and <http://www.sacto.org/>.

If you are interested in employment with our District, be sure to provide your Resumix information to the Western Civilian Personnel Operations Center WCPOC at Fort Huachuca, Arizona (<http://www.wcpoc.army.mil/home/WestCPOC.htm>). For additional information on these vacancies or the District, please call Mr. Jeff Groska, Chief of the American River/Great Basin Branch, at (916) 557-6760 or e-mail jgroska@spk.usace.army.mil.

Hydrologic Engineering Center

HEC continues to have vacancies occur as staff retire. We have had a half-dozen retirements of senior staff over the past six months, and will have another two to three over the next 18 months. This is an excellent time to consider joining HEC and participating in our resurgence with new staff to meet the challenges in the coming years. We have excellent work on the books at the present, and the future looks even brighter. We have previously announced vacancies as follows (see the HEC Web page, E&C newsletters): two senior technical 13's (referrals in but not yet filled); two entry through journeyman 9/12 engineers (referrals in but not yet filled), one supervisory GS-14 (Water Resource Systems Division Chief - referral in but not yet filled), and another supervisory GS-14 (Water Management Systems Division


Chief) now being recruited - see description below. Please pass this message to staff that might be interested.

Supervisory Hydraulic Engineer GS-14: This vacancy is for the Chief, Water Management Systems Division (WMS). This division was established in FY 2000 and is the successor to the Technical Assistance Division that had previously existed for almost 30 years. WMS is the HEC division that addresses the methods and technology that support execution of the Corps water control management mission. Activities include research and development, technical assistance, training, and guidance development. A recent focus of the division has been leading the Corps Water Management System (CWMS) development and integration project. CWMS is nearing the end of the development cycle and field deployment activities are gearing up to achieve fielding beginning in the summer and continuing for eighteen months thereafter. The division chief leads these activities for the Center, represents HEC with HQUSACE and others on water management matters, and serves as a member of the HEC senior management group that determine policies and practices for the Center.

This position will be filled through the Western Civilian Personnel Operations Center (WCPOC) located in Ft. Huachuca, AZ. You may submit a resume via Resumix by following the instructions at <http://www.wcpoc.army.mil>. You may alternatively apply via the Delegated Examination Unit (DEU) procedure, also available at the above Web site. For administrative information and assistance, contact Diane Cuming at HEC. For technical and other job-related information, contact the Darryl Davis, Director, HEC. See the Web site at <http://www.hec.usace.army.mil> for information about HEC.

Headquarters – Planning and Policy


The Guidance Development Branch is recruiting for a GS -14 environmental position (Archeologist (GS-0193), Social Scientist (GS-0101), Biologist (GS-0401), Ecologist (GS-0408)) to serve as policy and technical advisor on environmental compliance and ecological analysis applied to water resources projects and on water resources plan formulation and evaluation procedures. Incumbent is competent in ecological analysis and plan formulation of all types of water resources projects including ecosystem restoration, navigation, flood damage reduction, water supply and conservation, hydropower, and recreation. Incumbent is responsible for formulating sound planning policy and ecological evaluation and environmental compliance procedures for these types of projects. The vacancy announcement is NCR1784-01-CH thru 4/16/01. For more information contact Harry Kitch at 202-761-4574.

The Guidance Development Branch is also recruiting for a GS -14 Regional Economist (GS-0110) to serve as policy and technical advisor on economic analysis applied to water resources projects and on water resources plan formulation and evaluation procedures. Incumbent is competent in economic analysis and plan formulation of all types of water resources projects including navigation, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply and conservation, hydropower, and recreation. Incumbent is responsible for formulating sound planning policy and economic evaluation procedures for these types of projects. The vacancy announcement is NCR1947-01-CH, thru 5/7/01. For more information contact Harry Kitch at 202-761-4574. 

Vacancy Notification System

The vacancy notification system (VACNOT) is again operational. You may recall, VACNOT was deployed last year to notify careerists in career program CP-18 Engineers and Scientists (Resources and Construction), and USACE CP-55, Real Estate, of vacancy announcements when central referral inventories for these career programs were disestablished. Unfortunately, shortly after deployment there were a number of problems and the system has not been functioning for months.

VACNOT is a voluntary registration system that enables individuals to register for up to five series in any location. Since the system was designed for CP-18 and CP-55, the first four fields are reserved for series covered by these career programs. The fifth field accommodates all other series, to include the 340. VACNOT interfaces with the Department of Army vacancy announcement web site, www.cpol.army.mil, to notify employees via e-mail when a vacancy for which they are registered is published.

Instructions for registering are at www.cp18and55.net. Because of all the problems with the system since its initial deployment, those who registered previously will need to re-register. 

Maass and White Praised at Dedication of Reference Room

Bill Werick - Institute for Water Resources

A small but extraordinary event may help catalyze a rebirth in planning scholarship. Arthur Maass and Gilbert White have had more influence over the Corps planning process than any other scholars in the twentieth century. On April 6, 2001, they appeared in person at the dedication of the Arthur Maass-Gilbert F. White Water Resources Reference Room at the Institute for Water Resources in Alexandria, Virginia.

The reference room is a unique collection of the personal libraries of Drs. Maass and White, which they endowed to the Corps. The material is being housed at IWR so that it is available to planners and scholars in the Corps, elsewhere in the U.S., and around the world. The material must be reviewed on site, but a listing of materials can be seen at <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/>. Additional papers and books (the ones they wrote) are also housed on the HECSA complex at the Corps Office of History in the Kingman Building.

Major General Milton Hunter led a small symposium of speakers at the dedication ceremony. General Hunter said that “our children’s children . . . will judge us on the impacts of our decisions on their lives” adding that “an agency that is judged by the quality of its recommendations needs scholars.”

Maass, now 84, criticized the Corps' cozy relationship with Congress in his 1951 book, Muddy Waters, and he led the Harvard team that wrote Design of Water Resource Systems, the book that created the foundation for the P&S and P&G. These books will be available in the Reference Room. Gilbert White, who will be 90 later this year, is considered the father of floodplain management; he advocated the equal consideration of non-structural measures since the late 1930s. He has worked with IWR in the past, most recently during the National Drought Study and the Galloway Commission. Both gentlemen spoke with insight and wit at the dedication. These are truly two great Americans!

After General Hunter spoke, Jim Johnson, Chief Planning & Policy, paid tribute to Gilbert White, his professor at the University of Chicago, and Steve Dola, formerly of OASA(CW), celebrated Arthur Maass, his professor at Harvard. After the tributes, General Gerald Galloway (Ret.) explained how these two men challenged and changed the Corps, while Dr. Leonard Shabman (Virginia Tech economist) challenged the Corps to live up to their ideals in the 21st century.

The audience included former Chiefs of Engineers, leading scholars, current and former agency executives as well as Corps of Engineers planners. IWR will publish a proceedings and a video of the ceremony.



Photo taken during the symposium. Dr. Arthur Maass (left) looks on as Jim Johnson (standing) presents MG Van Winkle's letter of thanks to Dr. Gilbert F. White (center). IWR photo.



Planner Core Curriculum Moves Toward FY02 Start

Russ Rangos - CECW-PG


The top priority of Jim Johnson's program to assure a strong, sustained planning capability received the blessing of the Board of Directors (BOD) and the Chief, as they supported development funds for 7 of the 8 courses of the Planner Core Curriculum recommended in the January 2001 Planner capability task force report. The 8th course, the Plan formulation Workshop, is already funded for development using FY00 GI carryover funds.

The 8-course core curriculum will be required to be taken by new planners within their first 2-1/2 to 3 years. Current plans call for rapid, intensive delivery of the full curriculum to each MSC during FY02-FY04, and will be targeted toward planners with less than 5 years experience, although any planner is eligible to participate. HQ will centrally fund course development and delivery. A number of alternatives for possible student support are under development for later consideration by the Chief and the BOD. Curriculum delivery after the initial rapid deployment will be scaled down to accommodate incoming planners. Alternative delivery methods, such as distance learning and self-accrediting web based instruction, are under consideration.

The 8 courses of the Planner core curriculum are:

- Introduction to Planning
- Planning Principles and Procedures
- Economic Analysis
- Hydrologic Engineering
- Civil Works Orientation
- Plan Formulation
- Environmental Analysis
- Consensus Building (Public Involvement)

There will be an MSC assigned to manage each course, and instructors from all over the Corps will serve on instructor teams for these courses. As of this writing, SPD has been assigned the Plan Formulation workshop. Any one interested in being part of the instructor team may contact Ken Orth or Robin Mooney.

The other MSC assignments will be made by mid-April. In the meantime, you can contact Russ Rangos at 202 761-4241 if you wish to volunteer for any of these course instructor teams. Please take a moment and think about where you could best contribute to the strengthening and re-invigoration of the planning function: both today and tomorrow! 


Credit and Reimbursement for Sponsor Performed Work

Alan Lauwaert, CECW-PG

The purpose of this article is to provide information to help in the process of determining creditable work performed by the sponsor. There are many recent provisions in WRDA 1999 and WRDA 2000 for non-Federal sponsors to receive credit for work they performed if the ASA (CW) determines that the work is integral to the project. In order to discuss credit/reimbursement, it is necessary to use and understand the following terminology:

1. Integral to the study/project - Work the Corps would have done (or had done by contract) if the non-Federal sponsor had not performed the work.
2. Allowable credit - The lesser of the actual audited costs expended by the non-Federal sponsor or the costs to the Government, if the work had been done by the Government at the same time as the sponsor.
3. Approved credit - The features and/or amount approved for credit by the ASA (CW). Written documentation of the creditable features and amount is required to be transmitted to HQUSACE for forwarding to the ASA (CW) for approval.
4. Afforded credit - The credit that occurs at the time when the approved credit amount is transacted within an agreement in lieu of accepting sponsor contributions, generally in the form of a cash payment.

Credit for studies integral to the project may be in the form of in-kind services or materials performed or provided by the non-Federal sponsor. Credit for construction integral to the project must be PED, design, P&S, construction or general navigation features (GNF) performed by the non-Federal sponsor.

The general policy is that if reimbursement is authorized, the non-Federal sponsor will receive credit first against non-Federal sponsor cash payments. Reimbursement of the Federal share is considered only when there is no more credit to be afforded. Alan.J.Lauwaert@usace.army.mil 202-761-4232 

Section 211, WRDA 2000

Robert Gordon – CEMP-NE


Section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000), “Performance of Specialized or Technical Services,” was sponsored by Senator Thomas of Wyoming. Enacted in response to private sector concerns that we were competing for their business opportunities with State and Local Governments, it modifies procedures for accepting requests for services under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (ICA).

When considering work to be done under the ICA, there are requirements to prepare certifications that the services requested of the Corps “are not reasonably and quickly available through ordinary business channels,” and “that the Corps is uniquely equipped to perform such services.” On 8 February 2001, the Chief of Engineers signed interim guidance on evaluating requests under Section 211. That guidance is located on the web at <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cecs-i/iISWWW/WebLinks/Section211.html>.

Briefly, this guidance states that:

- Existing work for Federal agencies should continue
- New work for Federal agencies under existing MOA may be undertaken without HQ approval
- New work for Federal agencies not under existing MOA requires approval from CEMP-N
- New work for Federal agencies formerly done by the private sector requires approval from CEMP-N
- New work for state and local governments to be done under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (ICA) requires approval from CEMP-N
- New work for state and local governments under authorities other than the ICA may be accepted under guidance applicable to those authorities
- All discussions and MOA with state and local governments must include an exit strategy to withdraw support within a period of 5 years or less

The above web site provides checklists for use in preparing submissions for Headquarters review. There is a checklist for Federal agency requests and another for state and local requests. Both require use of the worksheet in the Chief’s interim guidance. The purpose of the worksheet is to require Divisions to seriously and objectively consider new work requests. The Interagency and International Services Division (CEPM-N) will handle all requests for determination that reach the Headquarters. Divisions may determine that the Corps should not accept new work. Such determinations should be reported to HQ.

As guidance is refined, it will be made available at the web site listed above. 

Mission Planning and Development Update

Rennie Sherman – CECW-PD

This column will provide updates on the interagency and non-governmental partnering activities of the CECW-PD staff, as well as the status of various Planning and Policy initiatives. Suggestions for future topics may be submitted to Ellen Cummings.

Interagency International Water Group


Chuck Moeslein - CECW-PD

Section 234 of P.L. 104-303 (WRDA '96), Interagency and International Support Authority provides for the Secretary to engage in activities in support of other Federal agencies or international organizations to address problems of national significance to the United States. It also provides a vehicle for the Corps to use its technical and managerial expertise to address domestic and international problems related to water resources, infrastructure development, and environmental protection. The Secretary may accept and expend additional funds from other Federal agencies or international organizations to carry out this section.

One of the ways that Section 234 is being utilized by the Corps is through our continuing involvement and active participation in the Interagency International Water Group (IIWG). Each month, the IIWG provides an excellent opportunity to better coordinate U.S. agencies involved in international water issues to achieve regional stability and develop relationships with other Federal agencies.


Through participation in the IIWG, the Corps has a great deal to offer and a terrific opportunity to play a more active role. A few months ago, Civil Works became actively engaged in the monthly international water meetings. We are now working closely with Don Kisicki and others in Military Programs as the HQ Civil Works representative at these meetings. This kind of CW/MP HQ working relationship is timely, and we look forward to being part of the Corps Team on international water issues.

The State Department Office of Oceans and International Environment and Science (OES) and USAID typically host the monthly meetings. The agendas for the meetings are varied and interesting. At one recent meeting, OES reported on their meeting with several other nations to forge a global water alliance for transboundary issues and the World Bank's Berlin meeting to add transboundary issues to their water policy. Group discussions focused on the formation of an agency web-based toolbox of capabilities applicable to overseas water work and a small subgroup was formed to develop the toolbox. The intent of the toolbox is to assist AID and the State Department identify capabilities in the agencies, as well as to allow others, including foreign countries, to do the same.

At a recent meeting, topics included a briefing by the World Bank on the Nile Basin Initiative Shared Vision and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program and potential projects that may be emerging. Currently, we are part of an interagency group crafting a multi-agency proposal to support the World Bank Nile River Basin Initiative. The proposal is expected to focus on two areas of interest - modeling the Nile for planning and mitigation of floods for the Eastern Nile Countries. 

Certified Floodplain Manager Program

Ken Zwickl - CECW-PD

The Association of State Floodplain Managers has developed and deployed a certification program for floodplain managers. Initial development of the program was supported by HQ Planning Division, and Ken Zwickl (CECW-PD) continues to serve on the ASFPM Certification Board of Regents. The primary goal of the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager Program is to help reduce the nation's flood losses and protect and enhance the natural resources and functions of its floodplains by improving the knowledge and abilities of floodplain managers in the United States. Certification is provided for two levels of expertise in floodplain management. For the initial level, "Certified Floodplain Manager," the applicant is tested on basic floodplain management, the National Flood Insurance Program, and typical local floodplain codes, ordinances, and regulation. To date, about 300 individuals have attained the CFM certification. An "Advanced CFM" certification attests to the holder's knowledge of comprehensive floodplain management, including flood damage reduction, emergency preparedness and response, flood mapping, natural and beneficial function of floodplains, and the role of state, local and Federal governments in floodplain management. The "advanced CFM" certification will be available for the first time at the ASFPM annual conference in June 2001. Both certification levels include requirements for continuing education, to ensure that those certified remain up-to-date on important floodplain management issues. For additional information on this important program, visit the ASFPM website at <http://www.floods.org/certification/certmenu.htm>. 

Items of Note - On the Web

Ellen Cummings – CECW-PD

You can click on <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/> to get to the main publication page and then the "What's New" link to keep track of the new publications.

Other websites of interest:

The Chief of Engineers has initiated a "hot topics" page where a variety of items in the news and of general interest have been posted. Click on http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/hot_topics/ to see information on the Upper Mississippi reports, recent speeches, the Environmental Advisory Board, and Corps Reform.

The Chief's Vision and Campaign Plan can be found at the following site - <http://corpsinfo.usace.army.mil/mp/n/50th/>

Log onto the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) website to review their 2001 Infrastructure Report Card. HQUSACE provided input to ASCE regarding the Corps infrastructure. The URL is <http://www.asce.org/reportcard>

The CIA has recently (December 2000) completed a report, Global Trends 2015 (GT 2015) which looks at the world in 2015. It is available at <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/globaltrends2015/index.html>. This report, an update of a report prepared in 1997 on Global Trends 2010, contains a lot of interesting information pertinent to current and future USACE international roles.

The Green-Duwamish Restoration Project now has its own website <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/pm/gdproject.html>. This site has some great information on the project and a link to the list of winners of the designation of National Stream Corridor Restoration Showcase, of which Duwamish is one.


Riparian Terminology: Confusion and Clarification: ERDC TN-EMRRP-SR-25 by Richard A. Fischer, Chester O. Martin, John T. Ratti, and John Guidice is available in pdf format at <http://libweb.wes.army.mil/uhtbin/hyperion/TN-EMRRP-SR-25.pdf>. There is considerable variation associated with riparian terminology, similar to problems associated with wetlands terminology. The goals of this paper are to promote awareness of this problem by describing variation associated with semantics in riparian terminology, to explain why this contributes to confusion, to show the importance of attempting to standardize this terminology, and to suggest ways that natural resource professionals can better describe what comprises a riparian ecosystem.

Another method for tracking legislation is GovExec.com's Bill Tracker at <http://capwiz.com/govexec/issues/bills/>. Bill Tracker is an interactive tool that allows you to track the status of the legislation that matters to you most. It also features an interactive guide to Congress that allows users to write directly to their representatives to voice concern or support for important legislation.

There are numerous web sites dealing with sustainable development (sd). Chuck Moeslein has provided the following information. These sites were selected because they contain useful information on sd research that has been conducted, outreach, programs, case studies (including regional water basin studies and demo projects), and tools (e.g., using a hands-on web-based watershed model with analysis tools to create varying scenarios over a 40-50 year planning horizon).

- Sustainable Development Gateway integrates over 1,200 documents of on-line information developed by sd members, provide services such as a calendar of events, a sustainability web ring, a roster mailing lists (listservs), news sites, etc. dealing with sustainable development - www.sdgateway.net
- Sustainability Institute is a think tank dedicated to sustainable resource use, sustainable economics, and sustainable community - www.sustainer.org
- Sustainable Development Research Institute focuses on sd linkages to integrate the environment, the economy and social institutions - www.sdri.ubc.ca
- International Centre for Sustainable Cities promotes sustainable development around the world through demonstration projects using Canadian experience and technologies - www.icsc.ca
- Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) created to provide the President with timely policy advice and to coordinate the science and technology investment, including sustainable development - www.ostp.gov
- Interagency Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators - www.sdi.gov
- The Environmental Sustainability Index (published by the World Economic Forum) - www.ciesin.columbia.edu/indicators/ESI
- The UN Commission on Sustainable Development - www.UN.org/esa/sustdev/isd.htm

A nifty tool for anyone preparing a PowerPoint presentation is the Visual Library located at <http://images.usace.army.mil/main.html>. Consult your local Public Affairs office for approval to post images to the site.

If you are aware of a site that may be of interest to others, please send a note with the address and brief description to Ellen Cummings or Harry Kitch. 

Upcoming Meetings

Compiled by Ellen Cummings

No information was received this month.

If you are aware of an upcoming meeting that may be of interest to others, please send a note with the address and brief description to Ellen Cummings or Harry Kitch.


Time To Update Public Surveys for OMB Approval

Lillian Almodovar – CECW-PG

The Corps of Engineers authority to conduct civil works public surveys will expire on 31 March 2002. The current authority covers a broad range of planning and recreation management questions that can be found on the IWR website at: www.wrsc.usace.army.mil/iwr/omb/html/OMBHOMEA.HTM. The approval process is very lengthy and requires that we start early with the revisions and submittal process. If you expect to be involved in the public survey process in the next several years, please review the questions in the website and provide us your suggested additions or corrections. If you have suggestions on types of guidance that could be added to the website, please contact Stuart Davis at IWR. Lillian Almodovar, CECW-PG, is the headquarters point of contact for the planning questions and Judy Rice, CECW-ON, is the headquarters point of contact for the recreation management questions. Deadline for submissions is 1 June, 2001. For further information, contact Stuart Davis at CEIWR-MD, 703/428-7086.

Also the e-mail addresses for the POCs at DOD and OMB for public survey approvals have changed. Please submit all surveys to:

cushingr@dior.whs.mil
James_A._Laity@omb.eop.gov

A copy of the approval request and the survey should also be submitted to the Division POC and Lillian Almodovar at HQUSACE. 

HQUSACE Forms Tribal Issues Group


Paul Rubenstein – CECW-PG

March 15, 2001 marked the inaugural meeting of the HQUSACE Tribal Issues Group. The Tribal Issues Group (TIG) will utilize a matrix-type, interdisciplinary approach to addressing policy development and program implementation guidance pertaining to matters that affect, influence or include American Indians and Alaska Natives. The HQUSACE TIG is chaired by Paul Rubenstein, Civil Works Planning and Policy Division. Members include George Tabb, Civil Works Operations, Construction and Readiness Division; Susan Bond, Office of Chief Counsel; Peg Erickson, Real Estate Civil Division; Kim Dailey, Military Programs Environmental Division; and, Rich Taylor, Military Programs Interagency and International Services Division. Observers include Georgeanne Reynolds, Congressional Affairs Office

and Becki Dobyns, Public Affairs Office. Advisors to the TIG are Lynn Martin and Meg Smith, both of the Institute for Water Resources.

The TIG members, advisors and observers bring a wide range of expertise to the treatment of tribal issues and assure a comprehensive consideration of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) concerns, including: legal and treaty rights, real property interests, interagency and outreach, environmental and ecosystem restoration, cultural and natural resources management, and management of operating projects.

The discussion topics at the initial meeting demonstrate the diversity of subjects to be addressed. These included the development of implementation guidance for two sections of WRDA 2000 pertaining to the Tribal Partnership Program and the creation of cemeteries and reburial areas in Corps lands for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Also discussed was the future management of a draft corporate strategy on Indian Nations, future AI/AN discussions by senior USACE leaders, and the status of a policy study on tribal partnering that is being conducted by the Institute for Water Resources.

Creation of the TIG and its engagement in tribal issues comes at a critical point in time. There is intense interest in Indian Country regarding USACE's ability to study a wide range of problems and tribal leaders are making their concerns known to HQUSACE. In the first of what will likely be a series of talks, TIG members and Mr. Chip Smith, Assistant for Environment, Tribal and Regulatory Affairs to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), met with Mr. Wayne Taylor, Jr., Chairman of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona. Mr. Taylor expressed his desire to work with USACE to address a number of problem areas within his tribal community. Discussions focussed on Washington-level efforts to develop new policies and guidance and the role of the local district office as a partner with the tribe. 

The "E" is in TEAM

Paul D. Rubenstein – CECW-PG

Jim Moore's commentary in the March 2001 edition of ENGINEER UPDATE, "Let's put the "E" back in USACE" is a well intentioned consideration of the place of engineers and engineering in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I respectfully submit, though, that Mr. Moore's call for engineers to "reclaim the legacy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers" misses an important point. Engineers have, are now, and will always be essential contributors to the legacy of USACE. We are, however, a team - - the USACE family- - and there is greatness to be found in our diversity.

Mr. Moore suggests that it may be time for USACE "to decide what we want to be when we grow up." I believe the right question is: what do we want to be as our country - - and perhaps the world - - grows up? That is the question we have been asking, and successfully answering, for our more than two centuries of existence. We asked and answered when we worked the rivers, harbors and defenses of a fledgling country; we responded again in opening the western frontier; and, we filled the histories of the twentieth century with successes in war and peace, in splitting the atom and developing our nation's water resources.

Today we are challenged by more complex problems. Certainly, as Mr. Moore notes, if "you were choosing a hospital to perform heart bypass surgery, would you ask how well they balance their books, or about their automated systems?" Perhaps not, but even the most skilled heart surgeon confronts increasingly complex problems that cannot be effectively solved without support from teams of highly

trained anesthetists, heart-lung machine operators, nurses, dietitians, and yes, administrative experts providing critical contributions to make the patient well.

To bring this matter closer to the Corps, one need only examine the ENGINEER UPDATE in which Mr. Moore's commentary appears. Articles address the Corps role in anti-terrorism; waterway management; artistry at a Corps project; and, Corps biologists leading the way in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Look at "Around the Corps" and you will find a media relations specialist retiring after 59 years of devoted service; opportunities to learn about mitigation banking; Corps vessels assisting an injured whale; and, a website detailing the Corps commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery.

If we accept Webster's broad definition, we are all engineers as we "plan, manage, superintend or guide." This is clearly not what Mr. Moore intended when he stated "we are *engineers*." But perhaps we should be looking at, and celebrating, the broader interpretation. I think it reflects the true nature of our organization, and the source of our strength.


We are the USACE TEAM.

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Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD, if at all possible
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address 

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Submissions Deadline

The deadline for material for the next issue is **25 April 2001**

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